

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE DIVISION

EDWARD GREEN,

Case No. 20-cv-784

Plaintiff,

vs.

DELTA OUTSOURCE GROUP, INC.,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES THE Plaintiff, Edward Green, by and through his attorney, Nathan DeLadurantey of DeLadurantey Law Office, LLC, and complains of Defendant Delta Outsource Group, Inc., and alleges to the best of his knowledge, information and belief formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the following:

INTRODUCTION

Nature of the Action

1. This lawsuit arises from the collection attempts of the Defendant.
2. Causes of Action herein are brought under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692, and the Wisconsin Consumer Act (“WCA”), Wis. Stat. 421 *et seq.*

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, because the case arises under the laws of the United States.

4. This Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) as it is an action to enforce liability created by the FDCPA within one year from the date on which the violation occurred

5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the claims arising under the Wisconsin Consumer Act under 28 U.S.C. §1367, because the Wisconsin Consumer Act claims are related to the FDCPA claims as they arise under the same set of facts, becoming part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

6. Venue in this Court is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), because this is where the acts giving rise to the claim occurred.

7. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c), a defendant corporation shall be deemed to reside in any judicial district in which it is subject to personal jurisdiction. Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in Wisconsin, as the actions giving rise to the lawsuit occurred in Wisconsin.

Parties

8. Plaintiff Edward Green (“Plaintiff”) is a natural person currently residing in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

9. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1962a(3) and a “customer” as defined by Wis. Stats. § 421.301(17).

10. Defendant Delta Outsource Group, Inc. (hereinafter “Defendant”) is a corporation with a principal office located at 62 N. Central Drive, O’Fallon, MO 63366. Defendant’s registered agent is Corporation Service Company, 8040 Excelsior Drive, Suite 400, Madison, WI 53717.

11. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by Wis. Stat. § 427.103(3) and a “debt collector” as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

Background

12. Sometime prior to the year 2020, Plaintiff incurred a debt with non-party American First Finance. (the “debt”). This debt was primarily for family, personal, and household purposes and was for less than \$25,000.

13. In January 2020, Plaintiff filed for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. His case was filed in the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

14. On his bankruptcy filings, Plaintiff listed the debt with American First Finance received actual notice of the bankruptcy filing.

15. Plaintiff received his bankruptcy discharge.

16. The debt was thereafter turned over to Defendant Delta Outsource Group, Inc., for collection.

17. Defendant has actual and/or constructive knowledge of Plaintiff’s bankruptcy.

18. Defendant even called Plaintiff seeking to collect on the debt. Plaintiff informed Defendant of his bankruptcy. Defendant continues to call and attempt to collect on the discharged debt.

19. Defendant has continued to harass the Plaintiff, for payment on the debt, in the form of phone calls to the Plaintiff.

20. Plaintiff has sustained damages as a result of Defendant’s illegal actions.

Count 1 – Violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, (15 U.S.C. §1692)

21. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above-paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

22. Plaintiff is a consumer as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).

23. The foregoing acts of the Defendant and its agents constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA including, but not limited to, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2), 1692e(5), 1692e(10), 1692f, and 1692f(1), with respect to Plaintiff.

24. Specifically, under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2), a debt collector cannot make a false representation about the amount of debt owed, which they did when they tried to collect on an account discharged in bankruptcy.

25. Specifically, under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5), a debt collector cannot threaten to take any action they legally cannot take, which they did when they tried to collect on an account discharged in bankruptcy.

26. Under 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10), a debt collector cannot use false representation or deceptive means to collect, which they did when they tried to collect on an account discharged in bankruptcy.

27. Under 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(1), a debt collector cannot collect an amount, which it is not authorized to collect, which they did when they tried to collect on an account discharged in bankruptcy.

28. Plaintiff has suffered actual damages as a result of these illegal collection communications, including (but not limited to) anger, anxiety, emotional distress, humiliation, frustration, amongst other negative emotions.

29. Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1); statutory damages in an amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); and, reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3).

Count 2 – Violations of the Wisconsin Consumer Act, (Wis. Stat. § 427.104)

30. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above-paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

31. Under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(h), a debt collector cannot “[e]ngage in... conduct which can reasonably be expected to... harass the customer or a person related to the consumer.”

32. Collecting on an account included in bankruptcy can reasonably be expected to cause harassment.

33. Under Wis. Stat. § 427.104(j), a debt collector cannot “[c]laim, or attempt or threaten to enforce a right with knowledge or reason to know that the right does not exist.”

34. Defendant had knowledge that they had no right to collect on the debt, when they placed phone calls to the Plaintiff.

35. Plaintiff has suffered actual damages as a result of these illegal collection communications in the form of anger, anxiety, emotional distress, humiliation, frustration, amongst other negative emotions.

36. Plaintiff is entitled to actual, statutory, and punitive damages pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 427 and, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 435.308.

V. JURY DEMAND

37. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Edward Green, by and through his attorney, respectfully prays for Judgment to be entered in favor of the Plaintiff and against Defendant as follows:

- A. *Actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);*
- B. *Statutory damages of \$1,000 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);*
- C. *Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);*
- D. *Actual, statutory, and punitive damages pursuant to Wis. Stat. §427 et al.;*
- E. *Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Wis. Stat. §425.308; and*
- F. *Other and further relief as may be just and proper.*

Dated: May 26, 2020

s/ Nathan E. DeLadurantey

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